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ralist to the American Transit of Venus Expedition in 1874-75. The results are of much interest, as the climatic features of the island are peculiar, while there are no land birds or mammals, strictly speaking, indigenous to it, and but a single shore-bird (*Chionis minor*), though the island is about ninety miles long and fifty broad, with snow-covered mountains, the highest of which (Mount Ross) rises to an elevation of about 5000 feet. The birds observed were pelagic forms, such as gulls, albatross, penguins, etc. The species have been determined by Dr. Coues, whose synonymical and other notes give additional value to the essay.

THE ZOÖLOGICAL RECORD.¹ — Though it is nearly time for the appearance of the volume for 1874, it is perhaps not entirely too late for us to call the attention of our readers to the value of these yearly indexes to the literature of systematic zoölogy. They deserve an extended circulation in this country, where access to zoölogical works is limited, and students away from large libraries are obliged to use such a record. Possessing such a manual of recent zoölogical literature, and ascertaining what has been published in his special department, the isolated student can borrow from central libraries works of which he otherwise would be totally ignorant.

We notice that the last four volumes are much thinner than the early ones. Is this a sign of the zoölogical millenium when all the new species and genera shall have been described, and students will be forced to study the anatomy, physiology, and development of animals?

SCUDDER'S FOSSIL BUTTERFLIES.² — This beautifully printed and illustrated memoir is the result of a critical and extensive examination of the specimens of fossil butterflies existing in European museums, none having yet occurred in this country. After describing the fossils with minuteness, and elaborately comparing them with related forms now living, the author discusses the comparative age of fossil butterflies, the probable food-plants of tertiary caterpillars, and the present distribution of butterflies most nearly allied to the fossil species, besides noticing such insects as have been erroneously referred in recent times to butterflies.

It appears that nine well-authenticated species of butterflies are now known, all from the European Eocene and Miocene tertiary formations, and that they represent all the families of butterflies except the *Rurales*, represented by the *Lycænæ*. Of the allies of the nine fossil forms, four now live in the East Indies, three in America, on the confines of the tropical and north temperate zones, one in the north temperate zone of Europe, Asia, and America, and one on the shores of the Mediterranean.

¹ *The Zoölogical Record* for 1872. Edited by ALFRED NEWTON. 8vo, pp. 495. The same for 1873. Edited by E. C. RYE. London: John Van Voorst. 1875. 8vo. pp. 543.

² *Fossil Butterflies*. By SAMUEL H. SCUDDER. Memoirs of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. I. Salem, Mass. 1875. 4to, with 3 steel plates; pp. 99. \$1.00. For sale by the Naturalist's Agency, Salem, Mass.